

St. Johnsbury Caledonian

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THE CALEDONIAN CO.

Le Printemps d'Habitant.

Bu Gosh, Ah'm glad for de Crow sing
"Caw, Caw, Caw!"
An' 'ow seem satisfy for heat his little more
pea straw;
An' hole wit' dese 'e keek heels-foot, and start
for 'trow hees hair;
An' 'wen dat hair pass on ma mount, ha gosh
me I don't care!
Ah'm glad see good hole maple tree wit' pipe
stuck on hees mount;
He give s'ro' an nice latire ma girl can't do
wilems;
De chicken sing an' start make haig, de snow
goe goin' fast;
An' everyting say "Dien Merce, de spring
she's come at last!"

—J. D. McLaurin.

Welcome to Col. Bryan.

St. Johnsbury extends a cordial welcome to Col. William J. Bryan and the whole community will delight to do him honor, irrespective of party. For the great democratic commoner does not come here on a political mission, but to meet the good people of Vermont, and his New England tour has been marked with a continuous round of social functions which must have impressed him with our hospitality. Time brings wonderful changes and in 20 years men's opinions of the Nebraska convention have greatly changed. He stands today as one of the first citizens of our republic—a christian gentleman, a polished orator, and a statesman with a broad vision of the needs of this republic.

PRESS COMMENT.

Senator Dillingham.

Vermonters may well feel proud of the distinction won by Senator Dillingham in the United States Senate.

Since entering that body in 1900, his advancement has been steadily upward, until in this comparatively short time, it is stated upon high Washington authority, he enjoys the utmost confidence of the President and his colleagues and every other public man with whom he has come in contact.

When Senator Dillingham was elected to Congress he was without particular national prominence; but the people of Vermont knew him. He had served them with faithfulness and distinction from the smaller to the highest state office.

In Congress Senator Dillingham has already been active in carrying forward some of the most important measures in national legislation. His work on the immigration question, one of the most important and far reaching among the problems now confronting the country, has been recognized in his selection as one of the three senators on the commission provided for by act of Congress to make a thorough investigation of the subject of immigration. It is now probable that Senator Dillingham will be made chairman of this important body upon its organization next month.

Certainly Senators Proctor and Dillingham are fully maintaining the prestige so long held by Vermont's representatives in the upper branch of Congress.—[Northfield News.]

The Present Dean.

"The St. Albans Messenger asks who is now the oldest Vermont newspaper editor in point of service. We would say that the Hon. D. K. Simonds, of this town, is entitled to that honor, having started in at Newport, Vt., in 1864 and continued without a break until 1905, 35 years of his work being on the Journal. Mr. Simonds was one of the charter members of the Vermont Press association."—[Manchester Journal.]

"If those not in the active newspaper service at the present time are to be included in the list there is the Hon. A. N. Swain of Bellows Falls. We understand, however, the Messenger inquiry to refer only to those now in the harness."—[Bennington Banner.]

The Banner understands the inquiry correctly. The editors of former days that already have been mentioned, and others beside, are all remembered by the craft with most warm and cordial appreciation of personal and professional merits. But the search has been for the dean of the men still toiling at the mill, and it is rewarded at last.

The dean of Vermont journalism is O. L. French, a native of Glover, publisher of the Brattleboro Phoenix. He is 63 years old and began work as a printer in the office of the Keene (N. H.) Sentinel when he was about 18. Three or four years later he became part owner of the paper and shortly after sole owner, only subsequently to have partners again. Thirty-four years ago he sold his interest in the Sentinel and bought a half interest in the Brattleboro Phoenix, becoming sole proprietor January 1, 1888. Mr. French has, therefore, been connected with newspapers as printer, editor and publisher 45 years, has been an editor and publisher 42 years all told, and has been an editor and publisher of a Vermont newspaper for 34 years. A somewhat careful canvass of the probabilities establishes Mr. French as the dean of Vermont journalism, with W. H. Bishop of the Essex County Herald and Lewis P. Thayer of the Burlington Clipper, as rather close juniors.

The craft generally will greet Mr. French in his new dignity with most cordial sentiments of hearty good will and the hope that he may continue to flourish.

Long live the dean! Health and benediction!—[St. Albans Messenger.]

The Vermont Conference

St. Johnsbury Welcomes the Clergymen and their Wives to the Sixty-third Annual Gathering.

A Review of the Entire Proceedings and the Appointments—Stirring Addresses by Noted Speakers.—Bishop Berry Delighted All by his Gracious Presence and Open Policy.

Last week was conference week and the St. Johnsbury people extended a glad hand to the clergymen and their wives, nearly 200 being in attendance. Tuesday afternoon the examination of candidates was held when 12 presented themselves. This was held under the direction of Rev. W. S. Smithers of Waterbury.

A. H. Brooks gave a pleasing organ recital previous to the opening of the services in the evening. Mrs. Hubert W. Brooks sang "Just as I Am," and the male quartet of the Methodist church sang a selection. The speaker of the evening, Rev. Charles A. Crane, D. D., pastor of the Peoples Temple, Boston, was pleasantly introduced by Rev. Alfred H. Webb of Brattleboro, and his subject was "The American Christian." Dr. Crane has the reputation of being a fearless speaker, which he proved himself to be on this occasion, and he spoke many truths, illustrated by every day happenings. He said the American christian was unlike other christians and on them rests the greatest responsibility the sun ever shone upon. They are the salt of the earth and uphold the other citizens, as they are the source and seat of power. The government rests upon their shoulders; they are broadminded; and not denominational. But there are two customs of throwing sand into the eyes of the American christian to blind him. One of these is in the improper observance of the Sabbath. He said that he could prove to any people anywhere who undertake popular self-government without the moral strength found in the observance of the Sabbath day, that they are bound to fall. The Sabbath is made for man, not man for the Sabbath, but it is made for his use, not abuse.

The conference organized by electing the following officers:
Secretary, Rev. F. W. Lewis of St. Johnsbury.
Assistants, Rev. R. J. Chrystie of Newport and Rev. William Shaw of Lyndon.

Treasurer, Rev. S. H. Smith of Richmond.
Assistants, Rev. X. N. Fowler of Randolph and Rev. C. D. Pierce of Johnson. Statistician, Rev. Fred Daniels of Barnard.
Assistants, Rev. E. L. M. Barnes of Pittsfield and Rev. E. E. Wells of South Royalton.

Railroad secretary, Rev. W. N. Roberts of Moretown.
Biographical secretary, Rev. Dr. A. L. Cooper of Randolph.

Announcement was made of the death of three pastors and the transfer of Rev. J. W. Hilsley to the Nebraska conference was announced.

A draft of \$908 from the Methodist Book Concern and \$22 from the Charter Fund was accepted and referred to the Stewards. Sixty-one pastors responded to the first roll call.

The memorial service was held at 10:30. Rev. W. E. Douglas of Rochester presiding. Presiding Elder Hunt read the Scriptures and offered prayer.

Memorials for deceased widows were read as follows: Mrs. Nancy C. Folsom by C. S. Nutter; Mrs. Mary Willis by W. R. Davenport; Mrs. W. C. Newell; Mrs. Mary A. Flanders by W. C. Johnson.

A memorial of Mrs. Celia Elizabeth, wife of A. J. Hough, was read by F. W. Lewis. Remarks were made by W. M. Newton, W. H. Webb and E. A. Bishop.

Memorials for W. A. Evans were read by W. R. Davenport; J. O. Sherburne by L. O. Sherburne; and W. D. Malcolm by A. L. Cooper.

Wednesday afternoon's session opened with the annual missionary sermon by Rev. P. A. Smith of Morrisville upon the theme, "The Immediate Resurrection or Reason for Missionary Enterprise." The hour devoted to the work of the deaconesses was opened with prayer by Rev. L.

funds for which an earnest plea was made. Miss Taggart's words could not help arousing a new interest in her work, in which she is so deeply interested. She favored the congregation with another solo at the close of her talk.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

The Epworth League banquet on Wednesday evening was the most enjoyable social feature of the entire conference. Nearly 225 covers were laid and Caterer Atwood served an exceptionally fine banquet. During the courses Ralph Parker sang "O, Restless Sea," and Mrs. Don C. Stiles "How Fair that Land," both generously responding to an encore. It was nearly time for the evening service when Carl H. Turner, as toastmaster, rapped to order and in a most graceful way the president of the local society, Miss Tilla Johnson, welcomed the distinguished visitors from abroad and all other members of the League. Rev. A. J. Hough of Groton followed with a poem on "The Modern Way" of which the following verse is a good sample:

Elisba Eljah's mantle fled,
Because he was just about to build.
The lamb a brave lion's skin wear,
But his little bleat will tell who's there.
To fill the robes our men of might
Prove, as they make their homeward flight,
And a giant's robe will but fatigue
A little dwarf of an Epworth League.

The last speaker was Bishop Berry, who was enthusiastically received and spoke briefly on the social side of the church, telling two good stories while on the subject.

He said there was a mania today for amusement. There were ten theatres today where there were six years ago. The ball room was revived in all its glory, and society has ordained dancing. The card table has come out of the saloon into the home. Our church has said, "Thou shalt not," and I don't believe we have said it any too often. It is the duty of the Methodist church to provide for her people proper recreation under the auspices of the church. In closing the Bishop urged the pastor to adopt the social side among the young people of his flock. The "Meat-choppers Quartette" in full regalia sang a medley after which adjournment was taken to the church.

The speaker of the evening was Rev. Dr. E. M. Randall of Chicago, general secretary of the Epworth League. After the prayer by Rev. L. O. Sherburne he was introduced by Rev. C. S. Andrews of Barre, and his general theme was the relation of culture and character to power. It was easily one of the strong addresses of the conference.

He ranked culture high in the attainment of power, set character pre-eminent first, and brought out clearly the close relation of the two. No life that combines the two great powers of culture and character can fail of being an immense success. In closing, Dr. Randall laid strong emphasis upon the evangelization of the young, upon getting them early into the church, which is the greatest patron of culture.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Thursday was a full day for the Vermont conference and Grace Methodist Church was filled at every session. Bishop Berry presided at the meetings and opened the morning one with a touching tribute to the late Bishop McCabe, who had been assigned to preside at this conference. He said his dominant characteristic was his unyielding perennial optimism, that he was a man of faith and that no man devoid of faith can be an optimist. He then told how the bishops were arbitrarily assigned to their conferences and episcopal residences and said that no preacher ought to receive public notice of his appointment without knowing beforehand where he was going. He believed in the open shop and invited preachers and laymen to meet him any night this week to talk assignments over. He said each preacher would be consulted and know before it was announced where he was going. This plan he added, met with the cordial approval of the cabinet and was received with hearty applause by the clergy.

The report of Presiding Elder Newton, who this year completes his sixth and last year of service in the Montpelier district, next followed, after which he was presented with a sum of money from the members of his district, the brief presentation speech being made by the Rev. A. H. Webb of Brattleboro. T. A. Hildreth, corresponding secretary of the New England Deaconess Association gave a short, but stirring address on the work of the Deaconesses. The building is not the debt is cleared. But the outlook is encouraging and with the strong and vigorous help of so many christian women, together with the pastors' wives, the dedication will soon, it is hoped take place. The training school in connection with the work is progressing and sums of money have been given by influential men who are interested in the work.

Mr. Hildreth's address was followed by Rev. E. M. Randall, D. D., of Chicago. He spoke of the League as a non-sectarian organization but with the proper training in the home children would learn the habit of giving. The League are increasing all over the country and the conventions planned for next year will show a more evangelistic spirit than ever before.

Miss M. A. Taggart spoke briefly of her associates in the Deaconess home, many of whom were present at the conference and spoke an encouraging word for this institution. The presentation of ministers to Bishop Berry followed.

Rev. W. C. Clark of Lyndon represented the Congregationalists; Rev. H. W. Lyster of Lyndon Center, the Free Baptists; Rev. A. S. Gilbert of Passumpsic, the Baptists.

Rev. Dr. W. K. Stratton of Boston, representing the Pastors' Relief Association, gave in brief a report of the year. The purpose of the society is to aid the widows of this denomination and the past year they have spent \$37,000 for this noble cause. The work in progress now is to secure a reserve fund. By this fund young Methodist ministers may be helped to better positions.

This was followed by the second annual report of Presiding Elder Hunt of the St. Albans district.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Thursday afternoon came the anniversary of the Woman's Home Missionary Society with Mrs. W. E. S. Celley of Fairlee, president, in the chair. After prayer by Mrs. A. H. Webb of Brattleboro, honorary president, the speaker of the meeting was introduced, Rev. Dr. William A. Frye of New Jersey. His address was packed with facts and figures and abounded in eloquence. His theme was "The Cross at the Gates of Empire."

He began tracing the course of the cross in the opening of empires around the world and said our own country was taken at San Salvador in the name of the cross. The people that come here now have neither God nor religion; have never dreamed of liberty or republican institutions. In 11 counties in the Pennsylvania coal regions there are 250,000 people speaking 32 different languages. This society is solving these problems and Grace Methodist church is the first that has been reported to me that is taking up the practical study of immigration. Incidentally in referring to graft and bribery, the speaker wondered if the law was still in the Vermont Statutes that disenfranchised the man that gave or took a bribe. God speed the day when bribery shall be as dead as slavery. Six million immigrants have come here since the new century dawned. We must teach them and we must also distribute them. We should turn our attention to something better than the reports of a Thaw trial and meet the incoming strangers with the story of the cross. When these heathen come from abroad and pay their own expenses to get religion we ought to give it to them. The missionary society held an executive meeting at the close of this session. The report of the secretary showed 36 auxiliaries with 740 members. The receipts for the year were \$1808, an increase of \$324 over last year. During the year 1055 garments were sent away and \$210 in cash. Mrs. H. N. Turner requested that the temperance department be organized and it was voted to hold district meetings throughout the year.

John A. Dixon, Ph. D., presented Clarence J. Ferguson, L. L. B., secretary of the Anti-Saloon League of Vermont, and he read an exhaustive paper on the subject "Has the Local Option License Law Vindicated its Heralds?" "Is the Church Content?" In this paper he asked many questions to be left in the minds of his hearers to answer, among them being these: Has the Local Option law proved the best method of dealing with the traffic? Has the improvement been realized, and is the credit given to no-license prohibition? If the east side of the state, which has little difficulty in voting no-license, is only what can be said under these conditions, does not the west side, which has an annual fight for this result, and in which the conditions under the new methods are remarkably worse? The conditions of the no-license towns seem to be no better except that the town agency has been removed. Under the fifth class license doctor's orders are required but are the conditions improved with this license? If license does not close the kitchen dives how have the heralds of the law been vindicated? The only change is that the license has been added and the same old ways of selling are still continued. In some license towns the doctors are getting their privileges, and in one town having three doctors the smallest practitioner gives the most orders, and the number is abusive to the system. If the local-option law increases the sale of liquor the opinion of the citizens should be procured as soon as possible as to the adoption of a better prohibitory law, and one that will give more satisfaction than the old method of the liquor agency. Resolutions to the next legislative session procure a better law were read and accepted.

These officers were elected for the Temperance Society of the Vermont Conference:
President, Rev. J. A. Dixon.
Vice Pres., Rev. C. J. Brown.
Sec., Rev. A. G. Austin.
Treas., Rev. A. H. Webb.
Executive Com., Rev. W. E. Allen, Rev. W. R. Davenport, Rev. P. N. Granger.

The anniversary of the Foreign Missionary society was held Thursday evening with Rev. S. G. Lewis of Hardwick as president, in the chair. Miss Maude E. Pollens sang a solo "I'm a Pilgrim," and prayer was offered by Rev. J. T. Baxendale of Montgomery.

Rev. Dr. S. O. Benton of New York, secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, delivered the address of the evening. In opening he referred to the results of the haystack meeting and said that the history of missions showed God's answer to prayers. First came the open door in the Orient and Africa, then money from the Christians to support the work. The greatest help the churches can give at the present time is to China. Her doors have been shut too long against the christian world. In the past year light has dawned in that country. Missionaries have accomplished wonders and funds have been readily sent, but there is great need for more. Dr. Benton's address throughout was most instructive and interesting, and he kept the undivided attention of his hearers from start to finish. He has been an able servant of many general conferences and brings to his position of corresponding secretary, a wealth of inherited and acquired ability, as his father and grandfather were strong Methodist preachers. Considerable business was transacted during the Friday morning session. These transfers were announced: G. C. Morse, C. G. Gorse and G. W. Scott in studies of 4th year to New York conference; G. W. Deuell in 3d year studies; S. Verks to New Jersey conference; R. D. B. Illman of New Jersey conference to the Vermont conference.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Before the roll of supernumerated preachers was called the Bishop offered a beautiful prayer, thanking God for the long and faithful service of these veterans in the service. The death was announced of W. D. Malcolm and of the 18 in the list these were present and briefly addressed the conference: G. L. Wells, C. W. Morse, John Thurston, A. L. Cooper, S. S. Brigham and H. W. Worthen.

Dr. Homer Eaton, a native Vermonter, presented the needs of the Methodist Book Concern and said the net profits last year were \$227,600 and the dividend to the fund for the supernumerated preachers \$130,000 of which the Vermont conference received \$908. Dr. Benton was introduced and said he represented through himself, his father and his grandfather, 137 years of Methodism and he rather liked this apostolic succession. Rev. Dr. David G. Downey of Brooklyn, was enthusiastically welcomed and said he was not a native Vermonter nor did he have any long New England ancestry, but he was a part of the problem that Dr. Frye presented the previous afternoon. He represented the Board of Education, the Freedmen's Aid and the Sunday school.

During the morning this business was transacted: Irving A. Ranney and Milo

A. Turner were admitted in full and elected deacons; E. A. Legg was admitted to full connection and elected elder under the seminary rule; George C. McDonald was elected to full connection; Charles W. Kelley was continued in second year class on trial; Wm. E. Lang's connection was discontinued at his own request.

The business was followed by Bishop Berry's address to the class for admission which was one of the strongest, if not the strongest, address of the convention. At times it moved the audience to tears, again there were outbursts of laughter and several times the Bishop was interrupted by applause. The address abounded in epigrams which were very telling. Among other things he said:

When religious experience is only a memory, preaching is the hardest thing to do on earth. Our churches have gone insane upon having boys as preachers. The idea that a preacher is not wanted when he is over 50 is an illogical and insane delusion. The ministers have got to crush this movement for their self preservation.

Talk about this church you are going to serve. Methodism is the most potential spiritual force in the life of the republic. First, you want to make the church a progressive church. There will be changes in the polity of the church, but never in the doctrine. Second, hold the church loyal to the Bible. Scholarship and heresy are not synonymous. Higher criticism has not done much harm and the wave is receding.

"Hammer away ye hostile hands,
Your hammers break, God's anvil stands."

Never tolerate the preacher or teacher who proclaims his doubts or who shakes the confidence of the common people in the foundation of their faith. Third, help us to relate our church more closely to social and industrial issues. John Wesley was a christian socialist and laid the foundations of the institutional church. It is not education, agitation or legislation that will give us the remedy but regeneration. The socialist propaganda is a foreordained failure because it fails to recognize human depravity. We are the people's church and when Methodism adopts the spirit of the Salvation Army it will accomplish a greater work. Learn to love folks with plain clothes, with calloused hands, and sweaty faces; just common folks, for among the common people you will find the aristocracy of America.

Fourth, relate the church more intimately with the civic problems. A good many of these can never be solved in the prayer meeting. Evil exists because of our permission. The church should be represented in politics by its christian citizenship. Be sure you have in your church a converted membership. Don't lose sight of the old-fashioned conviction of sin.

And finally, if you succeed you have got to be evangelists. John Wesley was the evangelist of the century. Don't give up revivals. Every minister and every christian should be an evangelist. Professional evangelism does not fit us because you are evangelists yourselves. But above everything else remember that the evangelistic forces of the church are in the pews if they are but awakened and endued with power.

This service closed with brief prayers by the four candidates and the closing prayer by Rev. Joseph Hamilton.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The anniversary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary society was observed Friday afternoon, Mrs. M. P. Donaldson of Sheldon, the conference secretary, presiding. The devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. C. S. Nutter of St. Albans. Mrs. Donaldson reported the year's work as the best since its organization, and said the receipts had been very nearly \$3000, the largest ever received. She presented Miss Emily Harvey, a member of Grace church, who has spent many years as a missionary, teacher and matron, in India, a large part of her time being spent in Raipur, where she found the people in the lowest degradation. She made encouraging comparisons between the conditions of the present day and those when she went there, and her talk gave a clear idea of the needs of the people and the opportunities for work in the district of Raipur. One year ago Miss Harvey landed at San Francisco, the day of the earthquake, to find the city in a state of desolation, but she was deeply impressed by the spirit of helpfulness that prevailed among those who were in positions to give help. She was obliged to remain on the boat three days before landing. Her address was followed by a collection for the missionary work. Miss Collins sang a solo at the close of this part of the program.

During the day the report of Presiding Elder Lewis for the St. Johnsbury district was read and is herewith published in full:

Dear Fathers and Brethren:—Through the abounding goodness of our common Lord we are again brought together to review the work of the year, to thank God for any measure of success achieved, to confess and deplore our failures, to plan for better work, and to gather courage and inspiration for it.

While the writer makes humble acknowledgment of the Divine forbearance and help, he is not unmindful of his obligation for aid received from human sources; and many of the brethren and sisters will ever be held in grateful remembrance for their multiplied kindnesses, and for the cooperation so cordially given.

Since his appointment to the district two years ago, the writer has been on duty every Sabbath, and practically all other days. As a general rule the Sunday work has included services at three places, some times at more, with drives of ten, fifteen, twenty, and even as high as thirty-five miles. He has held the first and fourth quarterly conference of every charge save in a single instance, where he reached the designated place at the appointed time only to find that the snow-blockaded roads prevented the coming of the members. A neighboring pastor was appointed to preside at the postponed meeting of this one conference. Second and third quarterly conferences have been held wherever desired, and no call for assistance in revival or other services has been refused.

We were unusually short of men last year, and at the adjournment of conference many charges were left without pastors. Nine had been transferred out, eight took a supernumerary relation, all of whom had been in the pastorate the previous year; one took a merely nominal appointment and one was discontinued.

Not one had been transferred into the conference and all the four admitted on trial had been doing good work with us as supplies. This district lost its full share of the outgoing above mentioned, besides which three local preachers who had supplied on the district left for greener pastures without any exchange.

After a little, Brother W. R. Davenport was led to resign his work in the Anti-Saloon League, and at a considerable financial sacrifice, to take up the work at Barton Landing. Excellent results have attended this arrangement. The Newport Centre work was supplied for a time by Brother Chrystie of Newport; at about the end of the first quarter Brother Aiken consented to accept the position of pastor, which he has filled satisfactorily for the balance of the year.

After quite an interval, West Burke found a pastor in Brother J. E. Sweet, transferred from the New Hampshire conference. The pulpit has been supplied temporarily by Brother Albert Gregory. Canaan has been but irregularly and unsatisfactorily provided in different ways during the year. North Danville had a temporary supply in the person of Brother A. M. Gates, who served them during his summer vacation.

Changes have been made necessary on various accounts. Brother S. F. Cooley thought best to surrender the charge at Woodbury on account of ill health. A student supply was secured. J. W. Pate, who came to us from the Congregational church in Canada and was assigned to Derby, though possessing elements of more than ordinary strength, did not prove a fit and left before the middle of the year. Brother F. C. Potter of the Maine conference was secured for the place, which he filled with great ability. His health failed, as it had in his own conference, and he was released early in February, with deep regret at the loss of one who promised to be an efficient worker and of most excellent spirit. A young man from Nova Scotia has been looking after the charge for a few weeks.

A kind Providence has so ordered that none of the men in the pastorate on this district have fallen during the year. Affliction, however, has not altogether passed us by. The district as a whole felt bereaved when the former presiding elder, the Rev. J. O. Sherburne, was called home early in the year. Together with the whole church we mourn the loss of Bishop McCabe, and more recently we have sorrowed at the unexpected summons of another of our chief pastors, though Bishop Fitzgerald had never been assigned to our conference.

Mrs. Mary Willis, widow of one who

(Continued on Third Page.)

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